

Bafut musical instruments

Bafut, 25-27/1/10
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See also illustrations in the section of Bafut images. O = Orthography C = Noun-class

IPA	O sg.	O pl.	C	Gloss	Further information
àlùmbèè	àlùmbèè			hourglass drum	An hourglass-shaped drum held under the arm with laces joining the top and bottom heads.
àmbòṅàbṅṅṅ	àmbòṅàbṅṅṅ			mouth-bow	This name applies to two separate instruments, the mouth-bow and the earth-bow. The mouth-bow consists of a curved stick with a string made of raffia joining the two ends. The player places the string between the lips and plucks the string while touching it lightly with a second stick in order to elicit different harmonics.
				earth-bow	The earth-bow consists of a flexible stick planted in the ground, with a string tied to the upper end. The string is attached to a membrane, which covers a hole in the ground. The player plucks the string while bending the stick to elicit a variety of notes.
àmḥūm	àmḥūm			friction drum	
àtṅṅlù	àtṅṅlù	ì	7/8	percussion gourd	An aerophonic percussion instrument made from a globular calabash with a hole cut in the top and in the sidewall. The player opens and closes the top opening with the palm of the hand and taps the side hole with the other hand to produce a rhythmic noise. Instruments are often played in pairs. Used for secret societies.
àtḥù'ùtḗ	àtḥù'ùtḗ	ì	7/8	single basket rattle, gourd net rattle, raft rattle	lit. "shake"
kwèn	kwèn	bì	1/2	gong	same word for all sizes. In the palace the gong is referred to by the name of the shrine, e.g. <i>ndàrṅàtākúmbàn</i>
mbḗṅṅṅ	mbḗṅṅṅ	--	9/10	iron dog bell	
ndzṅṅ	ndzṅṅ	--	10	xylophone	Bafut xylophones consist of loose planks laid on banana logs, played by multiple players. The smallest instruments have approximately eight keys, covering the compass of an octave and may be played by three players. Larger instruments cover up to three octaves and can have as many as six players. Played for a variety of dance societies.
nìbàṅ	nìbàṅ			flute	generic term

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nìbàŋ nīm̄fēē	nìbàŋ nīm̄fēē			cruciform whistle	used to call people for events
nìbàŋnī	nìbàŋnī			bamboo flute	
mfē'è	mfē'è				
nìkòni	nìkòni njà'à	mì	5/6	rattling spear	An iron spear
ndzà'à		mì			
nìlòŋ	nìlòŋ	mì	5/6	sansa, thumb piano	
nībà'atí	nībà'atí	mī			
nìlòŋnīŋààntì	nìlòŋnīŋààntì			pluriarc	
nìtā'ā nó	nìtā'ā nó			transverse horn	
nt̄fā'à	nt̄fā'à	--	9/10	double basket rattle	not of Bafut origin according to assistants
				big ankle rattles	
				concussion spheres	
nt̄fùm	nt̄sùm			conical wedged drum	
ŋgòòndzàŋ	ŋgòònjàŋ			tall goblet drum	
ŋkà'à	ŋkà'à			barrel drum	
ŋkàè	ŋkàè	--	9/10	double iron bell	
ŋkwà'à	ŋkwà'à	--	9/10	scraper	